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ACTION ARA-16
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
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DOT-02 SY-05 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5369
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINGSTON 7749
FOR POLAD
USCINCSO FOR INTAFF
E.O. 12065: GDS 10/17/86 (HAVERKAMP, R.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITREP NO. 1
1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THIS TELEGRAM INITIATES A NEW SERIES OF MESSAGES FROM THE EMBASSY DURING THE CURRENT HECTIC ELECTION PERIOD. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH A GREATER SENSE OF THE ATMOSPHERE HERE AND WITH INFORMATION ON A MORE RAPID BASIS, WE WILL SEEK TO SEND A DAILY REPORT OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE. AT THE SAME TIME WE INTEND TO END OUR WEEKLY REPORT ON VIOLENCE, AS WE WILL REPORT INCIDENTS IN THE DAILY SITREP.
3. VIOLENCE.
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-- THREE PERSONS WERE SHOT DEAD AND SEVEN WOUNDED THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 15-16 MOSTLY IN THE CORPORATE AREA. THE JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) CANDIDATE FOR WESTERN ST. ANDREW, OWEN STEPHENSON, A FORMER ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN WHOSE CONSITUTENCY MOST OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED, ACCUSED THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) OF SENDING "THUGS", WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEVEN M-16 RIFLES, INTO THE AREA BEFORE THE SHOOTINGS TO THREATEN THE RESI
ENTS.
--A POLICE STATION IN OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA'S WEST KINGSTON CONSTITUENCY WAS FIRED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT.
-- HEAVY GUNFIRE IN THE VICINITY OF KINGSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT CAUSED FEAR AMONG HOSPITAL PERSONNEL, WHO MET WITH MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY DUDLEY THOMPSON OCTOBER 16. TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SECURITY
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY BB DATE 25 JUN 1982
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE HOSPITAL.
-- PRO-PNP JBC TELEVISION REPORTED THAT PNP CANDIDATES PERRY STULTZ (EAST RUAL ST. ANDREW), DONALD BUCHANAN (SOUTH WEST ST. ELIZABETH) AND RUDDY LAWSON (SOUTH WEST ST. CATHERINE) WERE FIRED ON BUT NOT INJURED. LAWSON ASKED FOR THE SUSPENSION OF FOUR POLICEMEN WHOM HE ACCUSED OF SEEKING TO KILL HIM.
-- A SENIOR JDF SOURCE HAS INFORMED THE DATT THAT THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PRIMIN MICHAEL MANELY ON OCTOBER 6, AS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. DURING A CAMPAIGN TOUR, MANLEY'S SECURITY ADVANCE WAS FIRED ON AND RETURNED FIRE, BUT THE PRIMIN HIMSELF WAS NOT SHOT AT (SEE DAO REPORT FOR DETAILS).
-- MIKE HENRY, JLP CANDIDATE FOR CENTRAL CLARENDON, DESCRIBED TO EMBOFF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING PRIMIN MANELY WHICH OCCURED RECENTLY IN MAYPEN. A PNP MARCH LED BY MANLEY GOT OUT OF HAND AND THE MARCHERS

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BEGAN TO SET FIRE TO SOME BUILDINGS AND TO STONE OTHERS IN A JLP AREA. THE JLP CANDIDATE INSISTED THAT THIS ALL HAPPENED IN OPEN VIEW OF THE PRIME MINISTER. HENRY ALSO ALLEGED THAT MANLEY PREVENTED FIRE ENGINES CALLED TO THE SCENE TO PUT OUT THE FIRES. THE MARCHERS DESTROYED THREE VEHICLES, AND A MAN WAS ARRESTED TRYING TO SET FIRE TO HENRY'S CAMPAIGN JEEP. HENRY CLAIMED THAT MANLEY PAID THE BAIL AND THAT HIS SUPPORTERS SAID MANLEY RETURNED TO THE CAMPAIGN JEEP AND ORDERED THE MAN TO SET IT ON FIRE. EMBOFF EXPRESSED HIS DOUBT TO HENRY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA COULD INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THIS FASHION, BUT THE JLP CANDIDATE FIRMLY REPEATED HIS STORY.
4. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.
-- PRIME MANLEY, WHILE CAMPAIGNING IN HIS WEST CENTRAL KINGSTON CONSTITUENCY, CHARGED THAT THE JLP IS SO DESPERATE TO WIN THAT IT HAS BEEN USING TERRORISM SINCE THE OCTOBER 5 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS. MANLEY SAID THE PNP WILL NOT BE INITIMIDATED.
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--JBC REPORTED THAT LAWYERS REPRESENTING THE PRIMIN
HAVE FILED A SUIT FOR LIBEL IN THE U.S. AGAINST ANN
SABO ASSOCIATES, A PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM WHICH DOES WORK
FOR OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA. THE SUIT REPORTEDLY
CHARGES THAT, AS PART OF AN "ORCHESTRATED SMEAR
CAMPAIGN", IN EARLY JULY THE AGENCY ISSUED A RELEASE
TO 15,000 PUBLICATIONS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA ALLEGING THAT
MANLEY WAS REPSONSIBLE FOR INCREASED TERRORISM IN
JAMAICA IN ORDER TO PROVOKE AN EXCUSE TO CALL
IN CUBAN TROOPS.
-- THE DEATH OF ROY MCGANN, MP AND CANDIDATE FOR EAST
RURAL ST. ANDREW, CONTINUES TO DRAW COMMENT. THE
GOVERNMENT-OWNED JAMAICA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (JBC)
ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 16 THAT MCGANN WOULD BE GIVEN
AN OFFICIAL FUNERAL, TO TAKE PLACEON NATIONAL HEROES
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DAY (OCTOBER 20, A JAMAICAN LEGAL HOLIDAY). THE DAILY
GLEANER OF OCTOBER 17 PRINTED A JLP STATEMENT CONDEMNING
JBC COVERAGE OF MCGANN'S MURDER WHICH TOOK EXCEPTION
TO "THIS VICIOUS AND DISGUSTING CAMPAING...TO COVER UP
THE TRUTH AS TO WHAT TRANSPIRED IN GORDON TOWN ON
TUESDAY MORNING, TO EVOKE SYMPATHY AMONG THE VOTERS FOR
THE PNP AND TO CAST THE MALICIOUS AN FALSE IMPRESSION
THAT IT WAS JLP SUPPORTERS WHO SHOT MCGANN AND HIS BODY-
GUARD." THE POLICE REPORT, WHICH IS DISMISSED AS
"CONFLICTING WIT EYEWITNESS REPORTS" BY THE JBC, CLEARLY
INDICATES THAT MCGANN WAS SHOT BY SECURITY OFFICERS WHILE
HE WAS FIRING AT THEM. EMBOFFS HAVE HEARD FROM TWO
FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT MCGANN'S OPPONENT, JLP
CANDIDATE JOAN GORDON, HAD LEFT A JLP RALLY IN KINGSTON EARLY
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TO RTURN TO GORDON TOWN BECAUSE SHE HAD INFORMATION THAT MCGANN INTENDED TO PREVENT HER FROM BEING NOMINATED ON OCTOBER 14. MCGANN'S SUBSEQUENT ARRIVAL IN GORDON TOWN SPARKED A DISTURBANCE BETWEEN JLP AND PNP SUPPORTERS, TO WHICH THE POLICE RESPONDED. THE DEATH OF MCGANN AND HIS BODYGUARD ENSUED. FROM ALL REPORTS, IT APPEARS THAT MCGANN WAS SIMPLY IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME AND DID THE WRONG THING--FIRED AT THE POLICE. HIS REVOLVER, WITH ALL ROUNDS SPENT, WAS FOUND AT THE SCENE.

-- THE DAILY GLEANER OF OCTOBER 17 CARRIED A REPORT OF AN OCTOBER 12 ANTI-IMPERIALIST YOUTH RALLY DURING WHICH PNP GENERAL SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN DENOUNCED THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE, AS A "STRIKING HYPOCRITE", AN UNUSUALLY HARSH JUDGMENT FOR A WIDELY-RESPECTED FORMER PNP MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. SIGNIFICANTLY, GLASSPOLE HAS NOT YET ENDORSED MINISTER OF FINANCE HUGH SMALL, WHO IS RUNNING FOR THE SEAT WHICH GLASSPOLE FORMERLY HELD.

-- JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE INVESTIGATORS ARE REPORTEDLY

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LOOKING INTO THF DISAPPEARANCE OF SOME 200 MILITARY UNIFORMS FROM A LAUNDRY AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. HOWEVER, HOSPITAL SOURCES WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT, WHILE THERE HAD BEEN A BREAK IN, THEY KNEW OF NO STOLEN UNIFORMS. THE HEAD OF THE COMMUNIST WORKER'S PARTY OF JAMAICA CONTROLS THE STAFF UNION AT THE UNIVERSITY.

-- EACH DAY SINCE NOMINATION DAY ON OCTOBER 14, S SMALL PLANE HIRED BY THE JLP HAS BEEN FLYING OVER THE CORPORATE AREA TRAILING A BANNER. ON NOMINATION DAY THE BANNER CARRIED THE MESSAGE "16 DAYS UNTIL DELIVERANCE." THE NUMBER IS LOWERED EACH DAY. ON THE FIRST DAY THE PLANE WENT UP TI WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT AT.

-- POLICE INSPECTOR MCBETH, HEAD OF THF JAMAICAN POLICE FEDERATION, LEFT FOR MIAMI TODAY TO SIT OUT THE ELECTION. MCBETH HAS BEEN ON THE PNP'S BLACK LIST SINCE LAST SPRING WHEN HE SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. HE TOLD AN EMBOFF OCTOBER 17 THAT SOME PNP FANATICS ARE SAYING HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MCGANN KILLING.

LAWRENCE

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